Bighorn Sheep Specific Information

Definition

Adult ewe - a female bighorn sheep - one year old or older. Lambs (young of year) are not included.

Licenses & General Information

- License holders may legally take one bighorn sheep, subject to all specifications on the license issued.
- Bighorn ram horns greater than one-half curl must be plugged or pinned at any Fish, Wildlife & Parks office within 10 days after harvest. A listing of designated personnel and phone numbers will be provided to all bighorn sheep license holders.
- It is illegal to possess a bighorn sheep head picked up in the
- There are limited and unlimited bighorn sheep licenses.
 - Limited Licenses A limited bighorn sheep license is awarded only through the special drawing and are designed to limit the number of hunters in a specific hunting district(s). Hunters may apply for one limited license area only and it must be their first and only district choice, with the exception of an adult ewe which may be listed as a second district choice.

7 Year Wait

Year May

Reapply

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

Year

2002

2003

2004

2005

2006

2007

2008

Successful

- An applicant who receives a limited either sex or legal ram license is not eligible to apply for or receive another either-sex or legal ram bighorn sheep license for the next succeeding seven years. Reference chart regarding limited either sex or legal ram bighorn sheep licenses.
- · An applicant who is successful in obtaining a limited ewe license (first or second choice) is not restricted to the seven-year waiting period.

Unlimited Licenses - Unlimited

bighorn sheep licenses have no limit on the number of licenses sold and may be available from License Providers, including FWP Online Licensing or, the hunter has the option of applying by the May 1 deadline through the drawing process.

- Unlimited bighorn sheep licenses are available in districts 300, 303, 500, 501 and 502.
- An unlimited bighorn sheep license purchased through the special drawing must be listed as your first and only district choice.
- Unlimited bighorn sheep license districts with harvest quotas sometimes close a few days after the opening date.
- Licenses are nonrefundable and a hunter may not change the selected hunting district, even if a district closes before the hunter has participated in a hunt.
- An applicant who receives a unlimited legal ram license and harvests a legal ram is not eligible to receive or apply for another bighorn sheep license for the next succeeding
- Unlimited bighorn sheep hunting districts are assigned a harvest quota. Unlimited bighorn sheep license hunting districts will close on a 48-hour notice. When the quota is reached or approached, the bighorn sheep season in that district will close. Any ram harvested by a hunter will be counted against the quota.
- Current harvest information may be obtained by calling the appropriate Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional Headquarters during normal business hours.
- The department makes an attempt, through news releases and back country contacts, to inform hunters of bighorn sheep hunting district closures. However, it is the hunter's responsibility to be aware of season status.

Archery Season: Archery Only season for limited entry bighorn sheep hunting districts to run for 10 days prior to the start of any district's general bighorn sheep season opener. This does not include HD 301 or the unlimited entry districts. Bow and Arrow (archery) License required.



SuperTag Lottery for Bighorn Sheep - See page 7 for details.

- Resident and nonresident hunters can buy an unlimited number of \$5 chances to win a Montana hunting license for antelope, bighorn sheep, bison, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat and mountain lion.
- An individual may be successful in winning one or a combination of these SuperTags per year.
- Each Super Tag license allows one to hunt in any Montana hunting district valid for that species.
- Moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat 7-year waiting period does not apply to SuperTags.
- Chances are sold electronically at all FWP License Providers or via the Internet.
- Proceeds from the sale of SuperTag chances will enhance public hunting access and boost FWP enforcement efforts.
- For more information visit FWP's Web site at fwp.mt.gov.

Bighorn Sheep License Auction

- Legislation authorizes the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission to provide for the auction of a bighorn sheep license each year. This license authorizes the hunter to take a "legal" or greater ram in any district of his/her choice. This license is not a part of the seasons proposed, and if this license holder is successful, the bighorn sheep will not be counted against the hunting district quota. The license holder may only hunt in areas open to hunting (i.e., if an unlimited area closes due to reaching the quota, the license holder may not hunt in that area).
- The auction is held annually during the winter by a conservation organization that is preselected by the FWP Commission.
- Hunting is authorized for the next hunting season, not the current year's hunting season.
- Money raised through the bighorn sheep license auction is used for management of bighorn sheep.

Bighorn Sheep Mandatory Reporting Requirements

- A hunter harvesting a bighorn sheep with a license valid for a "legal ram" must not alter the head and horns as to affect determination of legality.
- A hunter harvesting a bighorn ram must personally present the complete head and cape intact within 48-hours to any Fish, Wildlife & Parks office, game warden, or designated employee in the administrative region where the bighorn ram was taken. See back cover for FWP office phone numbers.

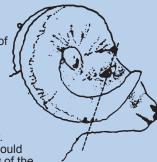
Judging A "Legal Ram" 3/4 Curl

When a straight line extending from the front base of the horn through any portion of the eye opening intercepts any portion of the horn, the ram is legal. If the horn is not long enough to be intercepted by the line, the ram is not legal.

Base of the horn shall be considered as the point where the horn meets the hairline of the head. See illustration below.

Determination of a legal ram should be made from a broadside view of the

Successful applicants for bighorn sheep should contact the department if they need the Montana Guide to Bighorn Sheep.



Bighorn Sheep HD Regulations

Residents are eligible to apply for any of the following licenses. Nonresidents are restricted to certain districts. Nonresidents are limited to, but not guaranteed 10 percent of a region's quota. Districts where nonresidents may apply are listed on the moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat nonresident application, but may change when final quotas are set in June.

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------ HD 100 ------
100-00: 2 licenses
• Sep 05 - Sep 14
                   - Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season
• Sep 15 - Nov 29
                  - Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
                       ----- HD 101 ----
                    - CLOSED.
                         ----- HD 102 -----
102-00: 1 license
• Sep 05 - Sep 14
                   - Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
• Sep 15 - Nov 29
                      Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
                            ---- HD 121 -
121-00: 10 licenses
                   - Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
• Sep 05 - Sep 14
• Sep 15 - Nov 29
                   - Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
121-30: 5 licenses
• Sep 05 - Sep 14

    Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.

• Sep 15 - Nov 29
                   - Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.
                            ----- HD 122
122-00: 6 licenses
• Sep 05 - Sep 14

    Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.

• Sep 15 - Nov 29
                   - Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
122-30: 8 licenses
• Sep 05 - Sep 14

    Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.

• Sep 15 - Nov 29
                   - Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.
                         ----- HD 123 --
123-00: 4 licenses
• Sep 05 - Sep 14
                   - Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
• Sep 15 - Nov 29

    Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

123-30: 1 license
                   - Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
• Sep 05 - Sep 14
• Sep 15 - Nov 29
                   - Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.
                           ----- HD 124 -
124-00: 10 licenses
• Sep 05 - Sep 14
                   - Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
• Sep 15 - Nov 29
                   - Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
124-30: 20 licenses
• Sep 05 - Sep 14
                   - Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
• Sep 15 - Nov 29
                   - Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.
                         ----- HD 203 ---
203-00: 5 licenses
                   - Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
• Sep 05 - Sep 14
• Sep 15 - Nov 29
                   - Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
203-30: 10 licenses
• Sep 05 - Sep 14
                   - Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
• Sep 15 - Nov 29
                   - Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.
                            ---- HD 210
210-00: 10 licenses
                   - Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
• Sep 05 - Sep 14
• Sep 15 - Nov 29
                     Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
210-30: 2 licenses

    Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.

• Sep 05 - Sep 14
• Sep 15 - Nov 29
                   - Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.
                       ----- HD 212 -----
212-00: 1 license
                   - Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
• Sep 05 - Sep 14
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----- HD 213 ------
213-00: 8 licenses
• Sep 05 - Sep 14
                   - Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
• Sep 15 - Nov 29
                   - Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
213-30: 20 licenses

    Sep 05 - Sep 14

                   - Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
• Sep 15 - Nov 29
                   - Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.
                        ----- HD 216 -
216-00: 8 licenses

    Sep 05 - Sep 14

    Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.

    Sep 15 - Oct 31

                   - Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
216-30: 20 licenses
• Sep 05 - Sep 14
                   - Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
• Sep 15 - Oct 31
                    - Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.
                           ----- HD 250 -
250-00: 2 licenses. Valid in portion of HD south of Nez Perce Rd and West
         Fork Rd.
• Sep 05 - Sep 14
                   - Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
• Sep 15 - Nov 29
                   - Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
250-10: 1 license
• Sep 05 - Sep 14
                   - Legal Ram Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
• Sep 15 - Nov 29
                   - Legal Ram Bighorn Sheep.
                          ----- HD 261 --
261-00: 5 licenses
• Sep 05 - Sep 14 - Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
• Sep 15 - Nov 29
                   - Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
                           ----- HD 270 -
270-00: 8 licenses
• Sep 05 - Sep 14

    Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.

• Sep 15 - Nov 29 - Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
270-30: 10 licenses
• Sep 05 - Sep 14 — Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
• Sep 15 - Nov 29
                   - Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.
                       ----- HD 283 --
283-00: 3 licenses
• Sep 05 - Sep 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
• Sep 15 - Nov 29 - Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
283-30: 10 licenses
• Sep 05 - Sep 14 — Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
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- Can 15 Nav 20 Adult Eva Digham Chan

Sep 15 - Nov 29 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.
 HD 300 ------

Unlimited Bighorn Sheep License. Purchase or apply by May 1.

300-20: Unlim licenses

• Sep 01 - Sep 10 — Legal ram Bighorn Sheep. Harvest quota = 2.*

*Any person harvesting a Bighorn Sheep in this Hunting District must personally call the Harvest Reporting Line at 1-877-FWP-WILD (397-9453) within 48 hours of the kill. For Quota Status call 1-800-385-7826.

Unlimited Bighorn Sheep License. Purchase or apply by May 1.

303-20: Unlim licenses. Deckard Flats-Eagle Crk portion of HD 303 as posted, subject to closure to all hunting on 24-hour notice.

Sep 15 - Oct 31 – Legal Ram Bighorn Sheep. Harvest quota = 2.*

*Any person harvesting a Bighorn Sheep in this Hunting District must personally call the Harvest Reporting Line at 1-877-FWP-WILD (397-9453) within 48 hours of the kill. For Quota Status call 1-800-385-7826.

Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

• Sep 15 - Nov 29

HD 304	• Son 05 Son 14 Adult Ewa Bigharn Shoon Arshan Only Sassan
304-00: 1 license	 Sep 05 - Sep 14 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season. Sep 15 - Nov 29 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.
• Sep 01 - Nov 29 — Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.	• Sep 15 - Nov 29 — Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep
HD 305	Unlimited Bighorn Sheep License. Purchase or apply by May 1.
305-10: 1 license	500-20: Unlim licenses
 Sep 05 - Sep 14 – Legal ram Bighorn Sheep. Archery O 	nly Season. • Sep 15 - Nov 29 — Legal Ram Bighorn Sheep. Harvest quota = 2.*
• Sep 15 - Oct 31 — Legal ram Bighorn Sheep.	*Any person harvesting a Bighorn Sheep in this Hunting
HD 315 315-00: 2 licenses	District must personally call the Harvest Reporting Line at
• Sep 05 - Sep 14 — Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery C	1-877-FWP-WILD (397-9453) within 48 hours of the kill. For Quota
• Sep 15 - Nov 29 — Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.	Status can 1-000 500 7020.
HD 340	HD 501
- CLOSED.	Unlimited Bighorn Sheep License. Purchase or apply by May 1.
HD 380	501-20: Unlim licensesSep 15 - Nov 29 — Legal Ram Bighorn Sheep. Harvest quota = 3.*
- CLOSED.	
HD 381 381-00: 1 license	*Any person harvesting a Bighorn Sheep in this Hunting District must personally call the Harvest Reporting Line at
• Sep 05 - Sep 14 — Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery C	inly Season 1-877-FWP-WILD (397-9453) within 48 hours of the kill. For Quota
• Sep 15 - Nov 29 — Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.	Status Call 1-000-305-7020.
HD 421	HD 502
421-00: 2 licenses	Unlimited Bighorn Sheep License. Purchase or apply by May 1.
 Sep 05 - Sep 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery C 	
• Sep 15 - Nov 29 — Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.	• Sep 15 - Nov 29 — Legal Ram Bighorn Sheep. Harvest quota = 2.*
	*Any person harvesting a Bighorn Sheep in this Hunting District must personally call the Harvest Reporting Line at
• Sep 05 - Sep 14 — Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery C	only Season 1-877-FWP-WILD (397-9453) within 48 hours of the kill. For Quota
• Sep 15 - Nov 29 — Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.	Status call 1-800-385-7826.
422-30: 25 licenses	HD 503
• Sep 05 - Sep 14 - Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery O	503-00: 3 licenses nly Season. Sep 05 - Sep 14 — Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
• Sep 15 - Nov 01 — Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.	• Sep 15 - Nov 29 — Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
HD 423	HD 620
423-00: 5 licenses	680-00: 20 licenses. Valid in HDs 620 and 680. Majority of bighorn sheep
 Sep 05 - Sep 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery C Sep 15 - Nov 29 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. 	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
• Sep 15 - Nov 29 — Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. 423-30: 10 licenses	• Sep 05 - Sep 14 — Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
• Sep 05 - Sep 14 — Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery O	• Sep 15 - Nov 29 — Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. nly Season. ————— HD 622 ————
 Sep 15 - Nov 29 — Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. 423-30: 10 licenses Sep 05 - Sep 14 — Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery O Sep 15 - Nov 01 — Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. HD 424	622-00: 7 licenses. Majority of bighorn sheep occur in Mickey-Brandon
HD 424	Buttes area and Iron Stake Ridge area.
424-00: 6 licenses	 Sep 05 - Sep 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
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• Sep 15 - Nov 29 — Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.	622-30: 1 license. Valid west of Renolds Hill Rd.
424-30: 25 licenses • Sep 05 - Sep 14 — Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery O	Sep 05 - Sep 14 — Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season. Sep 15 - Nov. 20 — Adult Eve Bighorn Sheep.
Sep 15 - Nov 01 — Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery 0	nly Season. • Sep 15 - Nov 29 — Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.
	680-00: 20 licenses. Valid in HDs 620 and 680. Majority of bighorn sheep
• Sep 05 - Sep 14 — Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery 0 • Sep 15 - Nov 01 — Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. ———————————————————————————————————	occur in Breaks along the Missouri River.
Sep 05 - Sep 14 — Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Cooling Sheep. Sep 15 - Nov 29 — Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. HD 455 455-00: 2 licenses Sep 05 - Sep 14 — Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery Cooling Sheep. Sep 15 - Nov 29 — Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.	• Sep 15 - Nov 29 — Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
HD 455	680-30: 30 licenses. Only valid east of the Stafford Ferry (Lloyd) Rd. Majority of bighorn sheep occur in Breaks along the Missouri
455-00: 2 licenses	Divor
 Sep 05 - Sep 14 — Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery C Sep 15 - Nov 29 — Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. 	• Sep 05 - Sep 14 — Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
	• Sep 15 - Nov 29 — Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.
482-00: 15 licenses	680-31: 30 licenses. Only valid west of the Stafford Ferry (Lloyd) Rd.
• Sep 05 - Sep 14 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery C	nly Season. Majority of bighorn sheep occur in Breaks along the Missouri River.
• Sep 15 - Nov 29 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.	• Sep 05 - Sep 14 — Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery Only Season.
482-30: 15 licenses. Valid west of Power Plant Ferry Rd.	• Sep 15 - Nov 29 — Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep
• Sep 05 - Sep 14 — Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery O	nly Season.
• Sep 15 - Nov 29 — Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.	
482-31: 5 licenses. Valid east of Power Plant Ferry Rd.	